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January 27, 2003

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Via Hand-Carry to
Examiner Joseph Waitach
Group Art Unit 1632

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/653, 277; Filed: August 31, 2000
For: **Cell-Specific and/or Tumor-Specific Promoter Retargeting of Herpes
Gamma 34.5 Gene Expression**
Inventors: Chiocca and Chung
Our Ref: 0609.4880002/JAG/KRM

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Fee Transmittal Form (PTO/SB/17);
2. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1);
3. Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 along with Exhibit A;
4. Copy of the listed references cited on Form PTO-1449 filed November 1, 2000
(38 sheets);
5. Copy of the references listed on Form PTO-1449 filed November 1, 2000
(116 references);
6. Form PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of **\$205.00** to cover the
extension of time fee (*small entity*); and
7. Return postcard.

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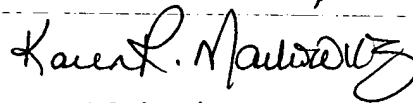
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January 27, 2003
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It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Karen R. Markowicz
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KRM/pcd
Enclosures

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